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From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

ORW/BHE

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

03.08.2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference
31779PC01

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/DK 03/00489

International filing date (day/month/year)
11.07.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)
11.07.2002

Applicant
ASAH MEDICO AS et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

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preliminary examining authority:



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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 31779PC01	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/DK 03/00489	International filing date (day/month/year) 11.07.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 11.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61N5/06		
Applicant ASAH MEDICO AS et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 12 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 22.10.2003	Date of completion of this report 03.08.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Willig, H Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7464 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/DK 03/00489**

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-31 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-130 received on 30.06.2004 with letter of 30.06.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/8-8/8 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/DK 03/00489

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 71-116

because:

☒ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 88-116 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

see separate sheet

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 71-87 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos.

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-70,117-130
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	2-70,118-130
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-70,117-130
	No: Claims	

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/DK 03/00489**

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/DK 03/00489

Reference is made to the following documents.

D1: US-A-5 312 397

D2: US-A-6 074 382

D3: DE-A-41 30 591

D4: US-B-6 383 177

Re Item III

- 1 **Claims 88-116** relate to methods for treatment of the human body by therapy (Rule 67.1(iv) PCT). Therefore, an opinion with respect to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability is not established for **claims 88-116** (Art. 34(4)(a)(i) PCT).
- 2 **Claims 71-87** are related to a selector device for a handpiece.
 - (a) Firstly, in independent **claim 71**, the selector device is defined as "comprising at least two components and being movable between at least two positions". Thereby, no features are defined which distinguish the selector device from almost any device, as almost any device is considered to comprise two components and to be movable between two positions.
 - (b) Secondly, in independent **claim 71**, the positions are defined as being "corresponding to positioning at least one of the two component in a beam path of a first light beam, so as to select the component, the selected component providing one or more specific functions". Neither from the reference to the beam path, the beam not being mentioned before in the claim, nor from the reference to the selection of a component and to the provision of specific functions by the component, can the skilled person clearly derive any structural features of the selector device.

Accordingly, independent **claim 71** does not clearly define any structural limitations which distinguish the claimed selector device from any device (Art. 6 PCT). Therefore, it is not possible to derive the subject-matter for which protection is sought, and an opinion with respect to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability cannot be established for **claims 71-87**.

Re Item V

- 1 The subject-matter of **claim 1** lacks novelty according to Art. 33(2) PCT. The reasons are as follows.
- 1.1 Document D1 discloses a handpiece (see fig. 1, col. 3, l. 25-26) comprising
- (a) means for receiving a first light beam emitted from a first light source (see col. 3, l. 26-28),
 - (b) two components (40, 42) (see fig. 4, col. 3, l. 53-54),
 - (c) a selector device (10, 38) comprising the two components (40, 42) and being movable between two positions (see figs. 1, 4, col. 3, l. 32, l. 53-54, col. 4, l. 52-63),
 - (d) means (44) for moving the selector device between said two positions, thereby positioning a selected component in a beam path of the first light beam, the selected component providing one function (see figs. 1, 4, col. 4, l. 52-63, col. 2, l. 26-56).

Claim 1 further contains the passage that "each position (of the selector device is) corresponding to a component". It is not unambiguously clear in the sense of Art. 6 PCT which structural features are implied by the correspondence between the positions and the components. Therefore, for the examination with regard to Art. 33 PCT, the above passage is not considered to define any further limitations.

Claim 1 further defines that the means for moving are adapted to perform the movement of the selector device between the two positions fast and with a high repeatability. However, the terms "fast" and "high repeatability" are relative and vague terms. Consequently, the above definition is not appropriate to define structural features which can be considered as a delimitation of the claimed handpiece from the handpiece of document D1.

Accordingly, all features of **claim 1** are known from document D1.

- 1.2 It is noted that also documents D2-D4 appear to disclose handpieces comprising all features of the handpiece of independent **claim 1** (D2 and D4: see especially figs. 2 and 4 and corresponding passages in the description; D3: see abs., col. 2, l. 66 to col. 3, l. 21). It is especially noted that the relative and vague terms "fast" and "high repeatability" are not appropriate to define clear limitations of the claimed handpiece against the state of the art.

- 2 Presently, it cannot be seen that dependent **claims 2-70** and **128-130** contain any

features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step according to Art. 33(2) and/or (3) PCT.

- 3 The subject-matter of independent **claim 117** lacks novelty according to Art. 33(2) PCT. The reasons are as follows.
- 3.1 Document D2 (see abstract, col. 11, l. 46-49, col. 12, l. 29-38, figs. 2, 4) discloses a method for tissue diagnosis of tissue at a target area by means of a handpiece (38) comprising a selector device (100, 101, 1, 2, 110) comprising two components, namely a cable (1) comprising an optical fibre (2) and a detector (110), the selector device (100, 101, 1, 2, 110) being movable between two positions, the method comprising the steps of
- (a) illuminating the target area (40) (see col. 12, l. 39-44, figs. 2, 4),
 - (b) deflecting light reflected from the target area onto a predetermined position (see col. 12, l. 44-50),
 - (c) obtaining information about the target area by moving the selector device (100, 101, 1, 2, 110) to the predetermined position, so as to move a selected component, namely the detector (110), into a beam path of the light reflected from the target area.

The feature of the handpiece that each position corresponds to a component is not considered to define further limitations of the claimed method.

Accordingly, all steps of the method of **claim 117** are known from document D2.

- 3.2 It is noted that also document D4 appears to disclose a method comprising all steps of the method of independent **claim 117** (see abs. and especially figs. 2 and 4 and corresponding passages in the description).
- 4 Presently, it cannot be seen that dependent **claims 118-127** contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step according to Art. 33(2) and/or (3) PCT.

CLAIMS

1. A handpiece comprising:
 - 5 - means for receiving a first light beam emitted from a first light source,
 - at least two components,
 - a selector device comprising the least two components and being movable between at least two positions, each position corresponding to a component,
 - means for moving the selector device between said at least two positions, thereby
 - 10 positioning a selected component in a beam path of the first light beam, the selected component providing one or more functions,
wherein said means for moving being adapted to perform the movement of the selector device between two positions fast and with a high repeatability.
- 15 2. A handpiece according to claim 1, wherein the selected component provide a functionality selected from the group consisting of sensing, emitting a third light beam, emitting no light beam, and emitting a second light beam in response to the first light beam being incident on the selected component.
- 20 3. A handpiece according to claim 2, wherein the second or third light beam, if present, is emitted towards a target area or wherein the handpiece further comprises deflecting means for deflecting the second or third light beam, if present, towards a target area.
4. A handpiece according to any of claims 1-3, wherein the first light source comprises a
25 laser device.
5. A handpiece according to claim 4, wherein the laser device is a laser diode.
6. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising deflecting
30 moving means for moving the deflecting means and deflecting control means for controlling the moving means and being adapted to control the deflecting means so that the second or third light beam traverses the target area in a predetermined pattern.
7. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the selector device
35 comprises an at least substantially circular disc, and wherein the means for moving the selector device comprises means for rotating the disc about an axis of symmetry of the disc.
8. A handpiece according to claim 7, wherein the at least two components are arranged
40 annularly along the edge of the disc, and wherein a specific component is selected when a portion of the disc comprising that component is rotated into the path of the first light beam.

9. A handpiece according to any of claims 1-6, wherein the selector device comprises an elongated plate, and wherein the means for moving the selector device comprises means for moving the plate at least substantially linearly along a longitudinal axis of the elongated plate.

5

10. A handpiece according to claim 9, wherein the at least two components are arranged along a longitudinal axis of the plate, and wherein a specific component is selected when a portion of the elongated plate comprising that component is moved linearly into the path of the first beam.

10

11. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the at least two components is an optical component.

12. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the at least two components is a non-linear medium.

13. A handpiece according to any of claims 11 or 12, wherein at least one of the optical component(s) is an optical lens.

14. A handpiece according to claim 13, wherein the target area is illuminated by a spot of a size determined by the optical lens selected.

15. A handpiece according to claim 14, wherein at least two of the optical components are optical lenses so that the spot size at the target area may be varied by selecting optical lenses having varied optical parameters.

16. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the at least two components is a sensor providing information about the target area.

17. A handpiece according to claim 16, wherein the information provided comprises information about tissue parameters.

18. A handpiece according to claim 17, wherein the tissue parameters are selected from a group consisting of colour, temperature, texture, elasticity, size, shape, reflectivity, and scattering properties.

19. A handpiece according to any of claims 16-18, wherein the sensor is a camera.

20. A handpiece according to any of claims 16-19, wherein the sensor is a charge coupled device (CCD) camera.

21. A handpiece according to any of claims 16-19, wherein the sensor is a complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) camera.

22. A handpiece according to any of claims 16-21, wherein the information from the sensor is displayed on a display.

23. A handpiece according to claim 22, wherein the displayed information comprises a map
5 of tissue parameters.

24. A handpiece according to claim 23, further comprising image processing means for processing the map for enhancement of selected tissue conditions..

10 25. A handpiece according to claim 22 or 23, further comprising user interface means for user selection of specific mapped tissue areas for treatment.

26. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the at least two components is a sensor for measuring the power of the first light beam.
15

27. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the at least two components provides a shutter function.

28. A handpiece according to claim 27, wherein the shutter is adapted to be operated on the basis of an output produced by a sensor measuring characteristics of the first light beam.
20

29. A handpiece according to claim 27 or 28, further comprising shutter cooling means for cooling the shutter.
25

30. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the at least two components is a collimator for collimating the first light beam..

31. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the at least two components is a reflecting mirror being adapted to reflect at least a portion of the first light beam.
30

32. A handpiece according to claim 31, further comprising absorbing means adapted to absorb at least a substantial part of the light beam being reflected by the at least one reflecting mirror(s).
35

33. A handpiece according to claim 32, wherein the absorbing means is positioned on an inner surface of the handpiece.

40 34. A handpiece according to any of claims 31-33, further comprising a detector device for receiving at least a portion of the light beam being reflected by the at least one reflecting mirror(s), thereby gaining information relating to said light beam, and producing a corresponding output.

35. A handpiece according to claim 34, wherein the detector device is positioned on an inner surface of the handpiece.
36. A handpiece according to claim 34 or 35, wherein the handpiece is operated on the basis of the produced output.
37. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising at least one second light source for providing illumination of the target area.
38. A handpiece according to claim 37, wherein one of the at least one second light source(s) is one of the at least two components.
39. A handpiece according to claim 37 or 38, further comprising a distance piece for defining the distance between the output of the handpiece and the target area, wherein at least one of the at least one second light source(s) is/are mounted on said distance piece.
40. A handpiece according to any of claims 37-39, wherein at least one of the at least one second light source(s) is/are mounted at or near the output of the handpiece.
41. A handpiece according to any of claims 37-40, wherein at least a substantial part of the light output from at least one of the at least one second light source(s) has/have a wavelength in the infrared part of the electromagnetic spectrum.
42. A handpiece according to any of claims 37-41, wherein at least a substantial part of the light output from at least one of the at least one second light source(s) has/have a wavelength in the visible part of the electromagnetic spectrum.
43. A handpiece according to any of claims 37-42, wherein at least a substantial part of the light output from at least one of the at least one second light source(s) has/have a wavelength in the ultraviolet part of the electromagnetic spectrum.
44. A handpiece according to any of claims 37-43, the handpiece comprising a plurality of second light sources, wherein at least a substantial part of the light output from each second light source has a wavelength in the infrared, the visible or the ultraviolet part of the electromagnetic spectrum, and wherein the light from the plurality of second light sources may be combined.
45. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising tissue cooling means for cooling the tissue of the target area.
46. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising means for displaying an image on the target area.

47. A handpiece according to claim 46, wherein the image is displayed by means of light, at least a substantial part of which has a wavelength in the visible part of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- 5 48. A handpiece according to claim 46 or 47, wherein the means for displaying an image on the target area comprises a light emitting diode (LED).
49. A handpiece according to claims 46-48, wherein the means for displaying an image on the target area comprises a laser diode.
- 10 50. A handpiece according to any of claims 46-49, wherein the image is displayed by light having various wavelengths.
51. A handpiece according to any of claims 46-50, wherein the image is displayed by light
15 having various intensity.
52. A handpiece according to any of claims 46-51, further comprising deflecting means adapted to cause the treating light beam to traverse the target area in a predetermined pattern, wherein the image displayed on the target area outlines the area(s) of the target
20 area which would be treated if a corresponding pattern is selected.
53. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising a built-in light source for producing a treating light beam to be directed onto the target area.
- 25 54. A handpiece according to claim 53, wherein the treating light beam produced by the built-in light source is a highly focused light beam.
55. A handpiece according to claim 53 or 54, wherein the treating light beam produced by the built-in light source is adapted to form a spot on the target area, said spot having a
30 high fluence and a small spot size.
56. A handpiece according to any of claims 53-55, wherein the built-in light source comprises a laser device.
- 35 57. A handpiece according to claim 56, wherein the laser device is a laser diode.
58. A handpiece according to any of claims 53-57, wherein the built-in light source is the first light source.
- 40 59. A handpiece according to any of claims 53-57, wherein the first light beam emitted from the first light source has a first wavelength and the treating light beam emitted from the built-in light source has a second wavelength, and wherein the first wavelength is different from the second wavelength.

60. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising a graphical display mounted on an upper surface of the handpiece.

61. A handpiece according to claim 60, wherein the display is adapted to display
5 information in a user specified direction.

62. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising at least one external connection, said external connection(s) being connected to the handpiece in a direction being at least substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of a handle of the
10 handpiece.

63. A handpiece according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising an attachment part for removably attaching one or more device(s) to the handpiece.

15 64. A handpiece according to claim 63, wherein at least one of the one or more device(s) is a distance piece for defining the distance between an output of the handpiece and the target area.

65. A handpiece according to claim 63 or 64, wherein at least one of the one or more
20 device(s) is a tissue cooling means for cooling the tissue of the target area.

66. A handpiece according to claim 65, wherein the attachment part comprises means for providing a cooling fluid to the tissue cooling means.

25 67. A handpiece according to claim 65 or 66, further comprising a sensor for measuring the temperature of the target area.

68. A handpiece according to claim 67, wherein the sensor is positioned on the tissue cooling means.

30 69. A handpiece according to any of claims 63-68, wherein at least one of the one or more devices is a second light source for illuminating the target area.

70. A handpiece according to any of claims 63-69, further comprising means for supplying
35 power to at least one of the one or more devices.

71. A selector device for a handpiece, the selector device comprising at least two components and being movable between at least two positions, each position corresponding to positioning one of the at least two components in a beam path of a first
40 light beam, so as to select the component, the selected component providing one or more specific functions.

72. A selector device according to claim 71, wherein the one or more specific functions are selected from a group consisting of sensing, emitting a third light beam, emitting no light

beam, and/or emitting a second light beam in response to the first light beam being incident on the selected component.

73. A selector device according to claim 71 or 72, further comprising a substantially
5 circular disc, and wherein the selector device is adapted to perform a rotating movement of the disc about an axis of symmetry of the disc, thereby moving the selector device into one of the at least two positions.

74. A selector device according to claim 73, wherein the components are arranged
10 annularly along the edge of the disc, and wherein a specific component is selected when a portion of the disc comprising that component is rotated into the path of the first light beam.

75. A selector device according to claim 71, further comprising an elongated plate, and
15 wherein the selector device is adapted to perform an at least substantially linear movement along a longitudinal axis of the elongated plate, thereby moving the selector device into one of the at least two positions.

76. A selector device according to claim 75, wherein the components are arranged along a
20 longitudinal axis of the plate, and wherein a specific component is selected when a portion of the plate comprising that component is moved into the path of the first light beam.

77. A selector device according to any of claims 71-76, wherein at least one of the
25 components is an optical component.

78. A selector device according to claim 77, wherein at least one of the optical
component(s) is an optical lens.

79. A selector device according to any of claims 71-78, wherein at least one of the
30 components is a sensor being adapted to provide information about a target area.

80. A selector device according to claim 79, wherein the sensor is a camera.

81. A selector device according to claim 79 or 80, wherein the sensor is a charge coupled
35 device (CCD) camera.

82. A selector device according to claim 79 or 80, wherein the sensor is a complementary
metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) camera.

40 83. A selector device according to any of claims 71-82, wherein at least one of the components is a sensor for measuring the power of the first light beam.

84. A selector device according to any of claims 71-83, wherein at least one of the components provides a shutter function.

85. A selector device according to claim 84, wherein the shutter is adapted to be operated on the basis of an output produced by a sensor measuring the characteristics of the first light beam.

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86. A selector device according to any of claims 71-85, wherein at least one of the components is a collimator for collimating the first light beam.

87. A selector device according to any of claims 71-86, wherein at least one of the
10 components is a light source for providing illumination of a target area.

88. A method for tissue treatment by means of a handpiece comprising at least two components and a selector device being movable between at least two positions, each position corresponding to a component, the method comprising the steps of:

15

- receiving a first light beam emitted from a first light source,
- moving the selector device to a predetermined position, so as to move the corresponding component into a beam path of the first light beam, thereby selecting said corresponding component,
- 20 - sensing, emitting a third light beam, emitting no light beam, or emitting a second light in response to the first light beam being incident on the selected component, by means of the selected component,
- emitting or deflecting the second or third light beam, if present, towards a target area on the tissue to be treated.

25

89. A method according to claim 88, wherein the first light beam is emitted from a laser device.

90. A method according to claim 89, wherein the first light beam is emitted from a laser
30 diode.

91. A method according to any of claims 88-90, wherein the selector device comprises an at least substantially circular disc, and wherein the step of moving the selector device to a predetermined position comprises rotating the disc about an axis of symmetry of the disc.
35

92. A method according to claim 91, wherein the at least two components are arranged annularly along the edge of the disc, and wherein the step of moving the selector device to a predetermined position comprises moving a part of the disc comprising a selected component into the path of the first light beam.

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93. A method according to any of claims 88-90, wherein the selector device comprises an elongated plate, and wherein the step of moving the selector device to a predetermined position comprises moving the plate at least substantially linearly along a longitudinal axis of the plate.

94. A method according to claim 93, wherein the at least two components are arranged along a longitudinal axis of the plate, and wherein the step of moving the selector device to a predetermined position comprises moving a part of the plate comprising a selected
5 component into the path of the first light beam.

95. A method according to any of claims 88-94, wherein at least one of the at least two components is an optical lens, the method further comprising the step of illuminating the target area by a spot having a size which is determined by the lens in case that component
10 has been selected.

96. A method according to claim 95, wherein at least two of the at least two components are optical lenses, the lenses having various optical parameters resulting in various spot sizes, the method further comprising the steps of:

15

- selecting a spot size by selecting a lens providing a spot of a corresponding spot size, and
- traversing the target area in a predetermined pattern of spots having the selected spot size.

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97. A method according to claim 96, further comprising the steps of:

- subsequently selecting a second spot size by selecting a lens providing a spot of a corresponding spot size, and
- 25 - traversing the target area in a second predetermined pattern of spots having the second spot size.

98. A method according to any of claims 88-97, wherein at least one of the at least two components is a sensor, the method further comprising the step of obtaining information
30 about the target area by means of the sensor.

99. A method according to claim 98, wherein the step of obtaining information about the target area comprises obtaining information about tissue parameters.

35 100. A method according to claim 98 or 99, further comprising the step of displaying the obtained information on a display or monitor.

101. A method according to claim 100, wherein the displayed information comprises a map of tissue parameters, the method further comprising the step of processing the map for
40 enhancement of selected tissue features.

102. A method according to claim 101, further comprising the step of the user selecting specific mapped tissue areas for treatment.

103. A method according to any of claims 88-102, wherein at least one of the at least two components is a sensor, the method further comprising the step of measuring the power of the first light beam by means of the sensor.

5 104. A method according to any of claims 88-103, wherein at least one of the at least two components is a shutter, the method further comprising the steps of:

- measuring the power of the first light beam,
- comparing the measured power to a predetermined threshold value,
- 10 - opening the shutter when the power of the first light beam exceeds the predetermined threshold value,
- directing the second light beam towards the target area according to predetermined settings, and
- closing the shutter when the target area has been traversed according to the
- 15 predetermined settings.

105. A method according to claim 104, wherein the predetermined settings comprise settings regarding the total duration of the traversing of the target area.

20 106. A method according to claim 104 or 105, wherein the predetermined settings comprise settings regarding the traversing pattern of the second light beam on the target area.

107. A method according to claim 106, wherein the predetermined settings comprise

25 settings regarding the treatment time at each position to be treated.

108. A method according to any of claims 104-107, further comprising the step of alerting the user when the shutter has been closed.

30 109. A method according to any of claims 104-108, further comprising the step of alerting the user when the temperature of the shutter exceeds a predetermined threshold temperature.

110. A method according to any of claims 104-109, further comprising the step of cooling

35 the shutter.

111. A method according to any of claims 88-110, further comprising the step of deflecting the second or third light beam with movable deflecting means so that the target area is traversed by the second light beam in a predetermined pattern.

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112. A method according to any of claims 88-111, further comprising the step of illuminating the target area by means of a second light source.

113. A method according to any of claims 88-112, further comprising the step of cooling the target area.

114. A method according to any of claims 88-113, further comprising the step of displaying
5 an image on the target area.

115. A method according to any of claims 88-114, further comprising the step of producing a treating light beam from a built-in light source.

10 116. A method according to any of claims 88-114, further comprising the step of emitting the first light beam from a built-in light source.

117. A method for tissue diagnosis of tissue at a target area by means of a handpiece comprising a selector device comprising at least two components, the selector device being
15 movable between at least two positions, each position corresponding to a component, the method comprising the steps of:

- illuminating the target area,
- deflecting light reflected from the target area onto a predetermined position,
- 20 - obtaining information about the target area by moving the selector device to the predetermined position, so as to move a selected component into a beam path of the light reflected from the target area.

118. A method according to claim 117, wherein the step of obtaining information about the
25 target area comprises obtaining information about tissue parameters.

119. A method according to claim 117 or 118, wherein the selected component obtaining information about the target area is a sensor.

30 120. A method according to claim 119, wherein the sensor comprises one or more array(s) of sensors.

121. A method according to any of claims 117-120, wherein the step of obtaining information comprises moving another of the at least two components into a beam path of
35 the light reflected from the target area.

122. A method according to claim 121, wherein the first and the other components are sensors being sensitive to reflected light of different wavelengths.

40 123. A method according to any of claims 117-122, further comprising the step of processing the information obtained.

124. A method according to any of claims 117-123, further comprising the step of displaying the obtained information on a display or monitor.

125. A method according to claim 124, wherein the displayed information comprises a map of tissue parameters, the method further comprising the step of processing the map for enhancement of selected tissue features.

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126. A method according to any of claims 117-125, further comprising the step of storing the information obtained.

127. A method according to claim 126, further comprising the step of displaying a map of
10 tissue features on the target area.

128. A handpiece according to claim 1, wherein the selected component provide a functionality selected from the group consisting of sensing, emitting a third light beam, and emitting no light beam.

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129. A handpiece according to claim 1, wherein the component comprises a reflective mirror, a prism, a diffractive optical element, a sensor, a detector, a light source, a shutter, a non-linear medium, a diaphragm, and/or a collimator.

20 130. A handpiece according to claim 129, wherein the component further comprises a filter.